



#37

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY

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KID ETERNITY . . .
a deadly anti-hero

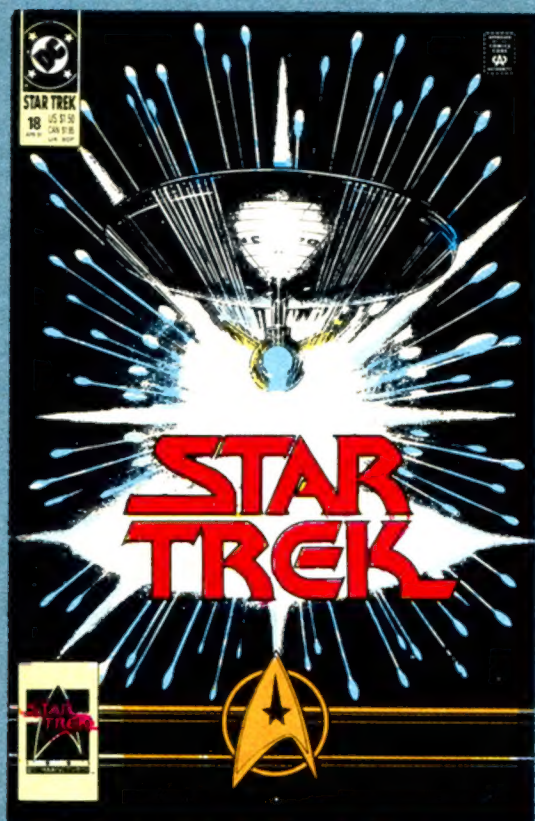
DETECTIVE COMICS #627 . . .
anniversary time for the Caped Crusader

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA . . .
super Golden Age heroes

BATMAN: THE CULT
trade paperback . . .
a fan favorite in one volume

PLUS...

an interview with
DETECTIVE COMICS artist
Jim Aparo



Cover of the Month
STAR TREK® #18

FROM HERE TO *KID ETERNITY*

He's neither dead nor alive. He's **KID ETERNITY**, a teenager endowed with supernatural powers and the ability to bring back the dead—a gift from the powers above for being taken by death ahead of his time.

Now the free-spirited **KID ETERNITY** is back as an agent of Chaos, in a world that's just a bit too ordered for his taste. The Kid must free his partner, Mr. Keeper, from indentured servitude in Hell before he can get on with his mission of undermining the forces of Order.

KID ETERNITY uses chaos magic to elevate humanity's existence, but this path to good intentions is paved with demons, death, and madness . . . espe-

cially when his way is blocked by a sleazy evangelist and a stand-up comedian. Before this nightmarish excursion into the netherworld has ended, everyone will be swept away in a rush of insanity that sheds new light on good and evil, life and death.

KID ETERNITY is a three-book Prestige Format miniseries that explores horror, madness, and chaos, through an ultra-modern, nihilistic anti-hero. Written by Grant Morrison and featuring stunning painted art by Duncan Fegredo, **KID ETERNITY** is scheduled to ship every six weeks and is suggested for mature readers.

KID ETERNITY. If death hasn't stopped him . . . nothing will!



FROM • THE EDITOR

I need your help, faithful readers! I'm just fresh out of ideas for interviewees for "People At Work." We've had everybody under the sun, from Denny O'Neil to Jerry Robinson to Denys Cowan to Jerry Ordway to DIRECT CURRENTS' own Paul Kupperberg . . . well, you get the idea. Who do you want to read about? Is there any subject you'd like a past interviewee to speak about? Let's hear it—I'm all ears (well, maybe not *all* ears)!

Oh, by the way, I guess you've all noticed this new guy in the cape with the big "R" symbol on it. Now that you-know-who is back, what do you think? A new Robin is a pretty big deal, especially when he reappears in his own miniseries. What are your thoughts?

Tammy



Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Tammy Brown, Editor

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UNBELIEVABLE ACTION IN *BATMAN: THE CULT TRADE PAPERBACK*

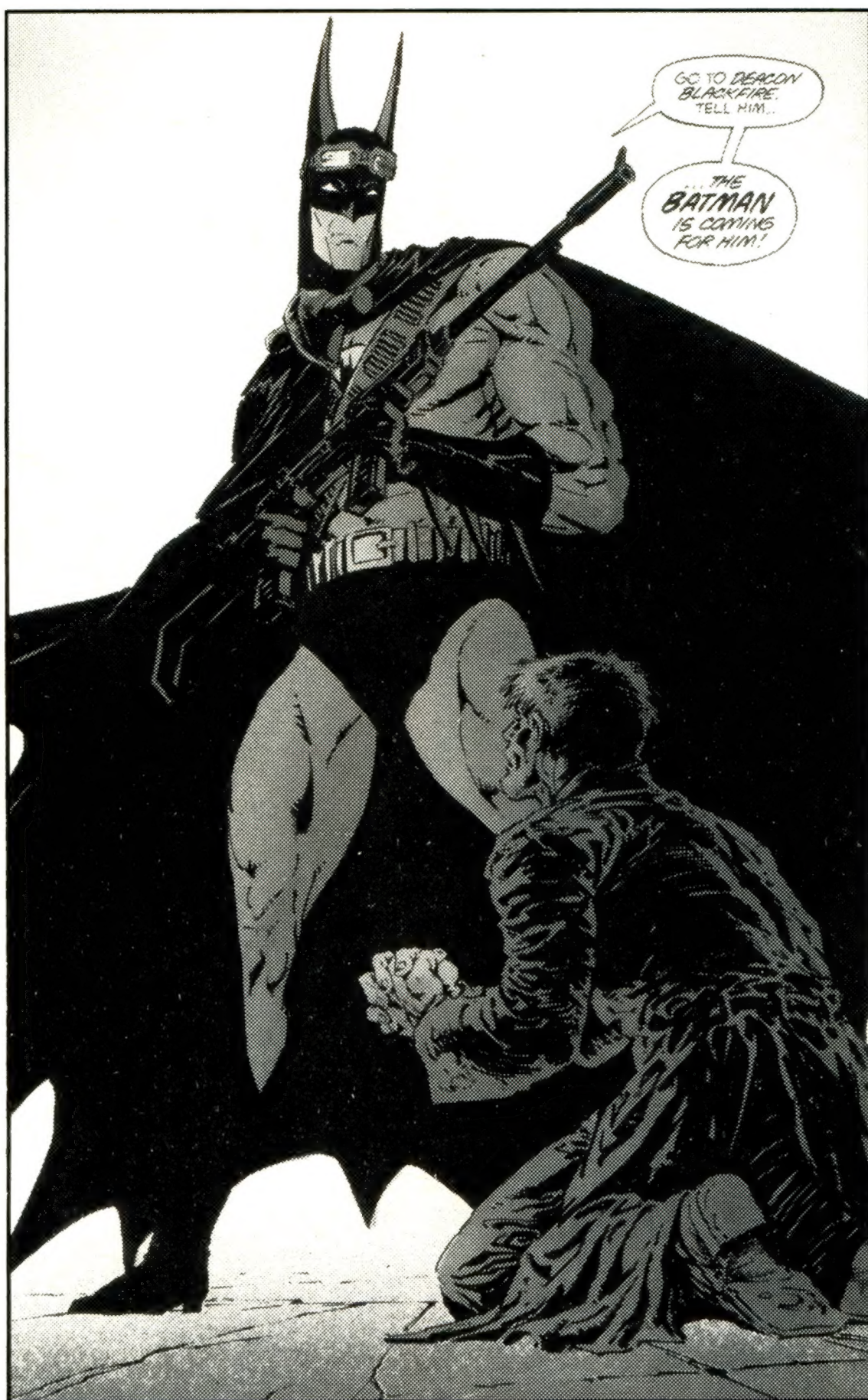
The light is the truth, and the truth shall set you free! Deacon Joseph Blackfire, the converter of Gotham city's homeless to his cause, meets the Dark Knight on a fire and brimstone battlefield in the **BATMAN: THE CULT trade paperback!**

DC is reprinting the 1988 fan favorite 4-issue, Prestige Format miniseries **BATMAN: THE CULT** in one collected edition. Batman meets the psychological mastermind leader of The Cult, Deacon Blackfire—and Blackfire wants Batman as his prize! The evil embodied by the Deacon

leads the Caped Crusader to question his own beliefs as he plays a harrowing mindgame for his very soul.

The **BATMAN: THE CULT** trade paperback was written by Jim Starlin, with art by Bernie Wrightson and coloring by Bill Wray. Wrightson will draw a new cover especially for this edition. This 208-page trade paperback will also have an introduction written by Jim Starlin.

All converts must read the **BATMAN: THE CULT** trade paperback!



600 ISSUES AND COUNTING . . . DETECTIVE COMICS #627

More than 50 years ago, Batman made his historic debut in **DETECTIVE COMICS #27**. Now, 600 issues later, he's still going . . . stronger than ever!

In celebration of the Dark Knight's 600 consecutive appearances in **DETECTIVE COMICS**, issue #627 re-presents the very first BATMAN story, "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate" . . . as well as three updated versions of the story spanning the last 30 years of BATMAN'S history.

The first version is a reprint of the original BATMAN debut exactly as it appeared in 1939, written by Bill Finger and drawn by Batman creator Bob Kane. Next up is a retelling of that landmark tale created in 1969 for the 30th Anniversary issue of DETEC-



TIVE, written by Mike Friedrich, with art by Bob Brown and Joe Giella.

Then "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate" gets two truly modern retellings, one by BATMAN creative team regulars Alan Grant and Norm Breyfogle, with Dick Giordano's inks, the other by DETECTIVE COMICS regulars Marv Wolfman, Jim Aparo, and Mike DeCarlo.

This special 80-page issue also features a text piece by BATMAN editor Dennis O'Neil. The painted cover, by Breyfogle, pays homage to the original DETECTIVE #27 cover in a modern style.

DETECTIVE COMICS #627 . . . 600 issues starring THE BATMAN and still counting!

THE GOLDEN AGE RETURNS IN THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Back in the 1940s, it was an organization boasting the greatest super-hero of the age. This was the golden age of heroes and comic books. Now the Golden Age is back and so is the **JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA**.

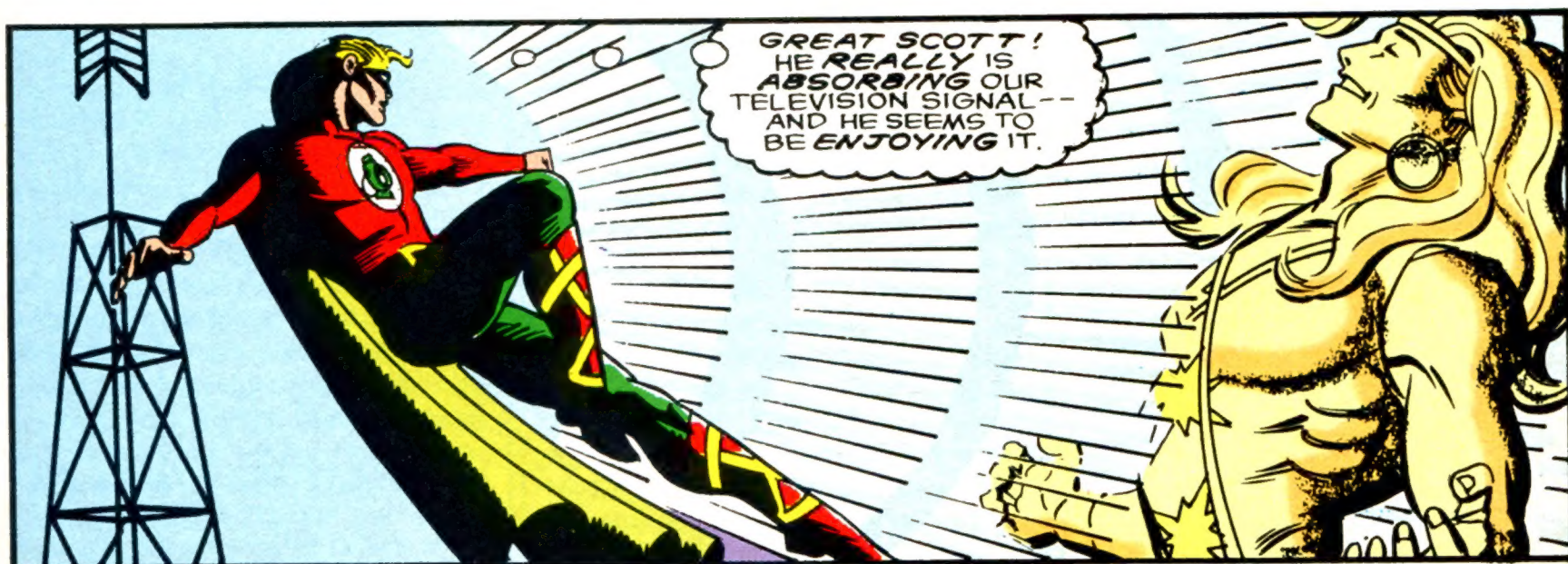
In this tale set in 1950, the JSA's old nemesis Vandal Savage is out to regain the stranglehold he had on the populace as the power behind the throne of the ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses. But Savage finds his plans thwarted by modern technology—a disadvantage he turns to his advantage by harnessing the ancient power of the stars to magically animate the constellations of Andromeda, Orion, and Sagittarius—and drain the energies of the modern-day world. But even more dan-



gerous to Savage's plot than technology are the members of the **JUSTICE SOCIETY**.

Each issue of this all-new eight-part miniseries will star or co-star original JSA members The Flash, Black Canary, Green Lantern, and Hawkman. **JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA** is written by Len Strazewski and features covers by Tom Lyle. JSA #1, starring The Flash, is pencilled by Rich Burchett, #2, featuring Black Canary, is drawn by Grant Miehm. Each issue will be drawn by a different exciting artist!

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA will make you nostalgic for the good old days of the Golden Age!



BOOKS SHIPPING IN FEBRUARY

ACTION COMICS #663

Part 2 of the 7-part "Time and Time Again" (continued from ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #476): Lost in the time stream, Superman finds himself trapped in the war-torn 1940s, facing the ultimate evil of a new villain—Adolf Hitler. Continued in SUPERMAN #54. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Bob McLeod and Brett Breeding. Cover by Kerry Gammill and Breeding. \$1.00

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ COMICS #27

Part 1 of 4: Kyriani has one suitor too many, but it's a short-lived problem when her latest paramour is murdered . . . and the elfin sorceress is the chief suspect in the eyes of the Waterdeep authorities. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Jan Duursema and Rick Magyar. Cover by Duursema. (New Format.) \$1.75

THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #15

The Boy of Steel is mysteriously teleported to the future where Shift, Tara, and Wildstar (from SUPERBOY #5) team up with a legion of their cronies to take on Superboy. Written by John Moore, with art by Curt Swan and Kim DeMulder. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Ty Templeton. \$1.00

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #477

Part 4 of the 7-part "Time and Time Again" (continued from SUPERMAN #54): Superman's involuntary jaunt through time lands him in the future where he encounters the Legion of Super-Heroes again . . . only this time they're older and battling the deadly threat of the Sun-Eater. Continues in ACTION COMICS #664. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens, and inked by Brett Breeding. Cover by Jurgens and Art Thibert. \$1.00

ANGEL AND THE APE #2

(of a 4-issue miniseries)
Apes are turning into humans . . . humans are turning into apes . . . and Gorilla Grodd is behind it all. Guest-starring Guy Gardner and the Inferior Five's Dumb Bunny. Written and pencilled by Phil Foglio, with inks by Keith Wilson. Cover by Foglio and Wilson. \$1.00

ANIMAL MAN #34

Like father like daughter? Could be, as Maxine starts exhibiting strange sympathetic behavior when Buddy uses his animal powers. Plus, Buddy finds out who's really been killing the birds. Written by Tom Veitch, with art by Steven Dillon. Cover by Brian Bolland. (New Format.) \$1.50

THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON Trade Paperback

Some of the finest DC Comics art by acclaimed writer/artist Walter Simonson is collected in this 208-page trade paperback edition, including stories featuring

Batman, Dr. Fate, and The Metal Men, as well as unpublished artwork and sketches. Relisted. Introduction by Howard Chaykin. \$19.95

AVATAR Comics #3

(of a 3-issue miniseries)

With the first Tablet of Fate in their possession, Midnight and her allies must now find the second Tablet in Waterdeep's City of Splendors before Cyric or Myrkul, god of the Dead, finds it, and uses it, for their own malevolent ends. Written by Barbara Kesel, with art by Dameon Willich and John Nyberg. Wraparound painted cover by Willich. (New Format. 96 Pages). \$5.95

BATMAN #461

As Batman and Joe Potato close in on the Slave gang, Catwoman and Sarah Essen meet in a deadly confrontation. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. \$1.00

BATMAN: THE CULT Trade Paperback

Deacon Joseph Blackfire is out to take control of Gotham City, but before he can do that, he must eliminate the single greatest threat to his plan . . . The Batman. Will the Dark Knight fall prey to the Deacon's psychological torture at the cost of Gotham's future? This 208-page trade paperback edition reprints the entire four-issue Prestige Format miniseries that chronicled Batman's battle with Blackfire, written by Jim Starlin with art and cover by Bernie Wrightson and color art by Bill Wray. \$14.95

BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #16

Part 1 of the 5-part "Venom": The Batman is forced to face up to his limitations as a hero when a simple rescue attempt ends in the death of the girl he's trying to save. Locking himself away in the Batcave, he attempts to test his strength and endurance to their limits but finds himself falling short . . . until a chemist offers him a solution in the form of an experimental drug designed to increase his strength and stamina tenfold. Even with the threat of unforeseen side effects, Batman feels he has no choice but to take the drug if he is to be more than just a man to the people of Gotham . . . even if it kills him. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Trevor Von Eeden, Russell Braun, and José Luis Garcia-Lopéz. Cover by Garcia-Lopéz. (Deluxe Format.) \$1.50

BOOKS OF MAGIC #4

(of a 4-book miniseries)

The strange journey concludes as Mister E, the blind occult vigilante, takes young Tim Hunter forward through time, to the end of the universe. There, Tim must decide whether he will become the greatest sorcerer the world has ever known. Guest appearances by Eclipso, Swamp Thing's

daughter Tefé, Dr. Fate, the Legion of Super-Heroes, Destiny, and SANDMAN's sister Death. Written by Neil Gaiman, with painted artwork and painted cover by Paul Johnson. (Prestige Format.) \$3.95

CAPTAIN ATOM #51

The world stands in awe of the power of Captain Atom, the hero who has saved the Earth countless times . . . but how will they react when the truth about him finally comes out? Written by Kelley Puckett, with art by Colleen Doran and Terry Austin. Cover by Michael Adams. \$1.00

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN #2

(of an 8-issue limited series)

The Challengers are up against their toughest foe as they defend themselves against a ruthless prosecutor who's trying to tarnish their image and ensure them a future behind bars. Written by Jeph Loeb, with art by Tim Sale. Cover by Michael Golden. (New Format.) \$1.75

THE DEMON #10

Jason Blood takes a stroll down memory lane . . . The Demon duking it out with the Phantom Stranger . . . the Doomsday Society makes waves . . . and Klarion the Witch Boy gets Harry the Pillow Man drunk. Written by Alan Grant, with art and cover by Val Semeiks and Denis Rodier. (New Format.) \$1.50

DETECTIVE COMICS #627

A special 80-page anniversary issue celebrating the 600th issue of DETECTIVE COMICS in which Batman has appeared, retelling the very first Batman story, "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate," in four separate versions by four creative teams, including the original 1939 story by writer Bill Finger and artist Bob Kane. Painted cover by Breyfogle. \$2.95

DR. FATE #26

Inza Nelson has become the new Dr. Fate and now she must face her first supervillain . . . but the real danger lies in her confrontation with her husband Kent, the original Dr. Fate. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art by Vincent Giarano and Peter Gross. (New Format.) \$1.50

DOOM PATROL #43

Something startling is buried beneath the Pentagon and the Doom Patrol is out to learn what it is. Meanwhile, the real Men from N.O.W.H.E.R.E. attack the backup team at the DP's headquarters. Written by Grant Morrison with guest art by Zenith and New Adventures of Hitler artist Steve Yeowell. Painted cover by Simon Bisley. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.50

DRAGONLANCE™ Comics #29

Riva Silvercrown is drawn into a fierce conflict between the nomadic Glass

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sailors when she befriends an errant mage whom they have banished into the wilderness. Written by Charles and Lisa Moore, with art by Alan Kupperberg. Painted cover by Randy Elliott. (*New Format.*) \$1.75

DRAGONLANCE™ SAGA Graphic Novel #5

Based on Book Two of the Second Volume of the Dragonlance Chronicles trilogy by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman: Sturm Brightblade is up on charges before the Solamnic Knights Council as Raistlin seeks to gain more power from the Dragon Orb. Written by Roy Thomas, with art by Ron Randall and Gary Martin and color art by Sam Parsons. Painted cover by Todd Cameron Hamilton. \$12.95

FLASH #49

Vandal Savage has an old score to settle with Flash and he goes about it by taking captive everyone near and dear to Wally and stealing his superspeed . . . before killing him. Chunk, Wally's mom, and Elongated Man guest-star. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and José Marzan, Jr. Cover by LaRocque. \$1.00

FORGOTTEN REALMS™ Comics #20

The shipwrecked crew of the Realms Master discover that their rescuers have become their captors . . . and Ishi isn't given much of a choice when they ask her to switch allegiance. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art by Tom Raney and Dave Simons. Color by Gene D'Angelo. (*New Format.*) \$1.75

GREEN ARROW #44

Part 1 of the 2-part "Rock and Runes": While traveling in Wales, Green Arrow becomes embroiled in a violent battle over ancient land while, back home in Seattle, Dinah finds herself the object of desire of a young police officer. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Rick Hoberg and John Nyberg. Cover by Grell. (*Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*) \$1.25

GREEN LANTERN #11

Part 3 of 4: G'nort's connection with the Weaponers of Qward is revealed, along with a sinister plot to discredit the Green Lantern Corps . . . but add Guy Gardner and the Weaponers to that mix and the serious trouble starts. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Joe Staton and Bruce Patterson. Cover by Staton. \$1.00

HAWK & DOVE #23

Hawk and Dove may be in over their heads when Velvet Tiger and Sudden Death make moves to take over the Washington, D.C. crime scene and a group of renegade Cyber Punks takes exception to their plans. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. \$1.00

HAWKWORLD #10

While Shayera escorts a defeated Byth back to Thanagar, Katar is left on Earth where he learns the hard way the pitfalls of being a public hero. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Graham Nolan and Gary Kwapisz. Cover by Nolan. (*New Format.*) \$1.50

HELLBLAZER #40

Jamie Delano ends his run as regular HELLBLAZER scripter with a special extra-length story of an alternate reality John Constantine who has made all the right choices and rescued his loved ones from their grisly fates. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Dave McKean. Painted cover by McKean and Kent Williams. Also includes a preview of KID ETERNITY, a new Prestige Format miniseries by Grant Morrison and Duncan Fegredo. (*Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*) \$2.25

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #49

Part 4 of a 5-part story: Guy Gardner tries to help his hero, General Glory, escape custody after his arrest for deserting his unit back in World War II . . . but Orion has other ideas on the subject. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Linda Medley and John Beatty. Cover by Adam Hughes and Karl Story. \$1.00

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #24

Crimson Fox possesses the secret that can destroy those pesky giant worms burrowing their way under London . . . but that secret could also put her life—and her sister's—on the line. Written by Keith Giffen and Gerard Jones, with art by Bart Sears and Randy Elliott. Cover by Sears. \$1.00

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #1

(of an 8-issue limited series)

Welcome to 1950, the era of the Justice Society of America . . . and the year Jay Garrick, the original Flash, became the first member of the JSA to face the wrath of Vandal Savage and the living constellations he plans to use to subjugate humanity. Written by Len Strazewski, with art by Rick Burchett. Cover by Tom Lyle. \$1.00

KID ETERNITY #1

(of a 3-book miniseries)

It's a trip into the netherworld of madness as Kid Eternity returns to use his power to combat the forces of Order. Jerry Sullivan is an average guy chosen by Kid Eternity to assist him in fighting the Demon Cadre seeking to take over the Earth. Written by Grant Morrison, with painted art and painted cover by Duncan Fegredo. (*Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.*) \$4.95

L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 #26

Lobo teams up with the L.E.G.I.O.N. to battle the Khunds. Need

we say more? Written by Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson. Cover by Garry Leach. (*New Format.*) \$1.50

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #17

Chuck Taine and Mysa Nal are the last hope against total annihilation as a section of the Khund Armada attacks Talok VIII as a diversion while the rest of the imperial fleet assaults the small U.P. outpost on Xolnar. Written by Tom and Mary Bierbaum and Keith Giffen, with art by Giffen, Brandon Peterson, Al Gordon, and Carlos Garzon. Cover by Giffen. (*Deluxe Format.*) \$1.75

MISTER MIRACLE #26

Scott and Shilo investigate why normal people being turning into supervillains . . . and the answer turns out to be right under their noses. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Joe Phillips and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Phillips and Karl Story. \$1.00

MS. TREE QUARTERLY #4

Ms. Tree's old classmate reenters her life and involves her in a deadly ménage à trois of murder. Written by Max Allan Collins, with art by Terry Beatty. Plus, Midnight plays father to an abandoned child as he searches through the ghetto for its mother . . . and an explanation of the child's sorry condition in a story by writer Edward Gorman and artist Rick Burchett. Painted cover by George Pratt. (*Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*) \$3.95

THE NAZZ #4

(of a 4-book miniseries)

Captain Striker finally gets the real superpowers he's desired and Nazz survives the Retaliators' nuclear assault . . . but it's Nina, Nazz's girlfriend, who holds the key to his fate. But she must first come to grips with what his powers have turned him into. Written by Tom Veitch, with art and cover by Bryan Talbot and color by Steve Whitaker. (*Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.*) \$4.95

NEW GODS #24

The Forever People are back and determined to help save Earth's ravaged environment. . . . but when Orion enters the scene, nuclear destruction suddenly becomes imminent. Written by Mark Evanier, with art and cover by Steve Erwin and Will Blyberg. (*New Format*) \$1.50

THE NEW TITANS #75

When Phantasm and Pantha form an unlikely alliance to combat their common foe, The Wildebeest Society, they uncover the most shocking Titans surprise ever as they learn who the Wildebeest leader is! Written by Marv Wolfman, with art and cover by Tom Grummett and Al Vey. (*Deluxe Format*) \$1.75

ROBIN #4

(of a 5-issue miniseries)

Lady Shiva completes Robin's martial arts

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training before they, along with Rawlins, head out on the final hunt for the merciless King Snake. Written by Chuck Dixon, with art by Tom Lyle and Bob Smith. Cover by Brian Bolland. \$1.00

SANDMAN #25
While Sandman negotiates the fate of Hell, the damned commit mayhem at an English boarding school. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Matt Wagner and Malcolm Jones III. Painted cover by Dave McKean. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.50

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN #10
It's paranoia—1950s style—as the madness sweeping the USA starts to affect the bodies of normal, average Americans. Written by Peter Milligan, with art by guest penciller Bill Jaaska and Mark Pennington. Painted cover by Brendan McCarthy. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.50

THE SHADOW STRIKES! #17
The Shadow works to stop the plot of the weird and nefarious Number One and his band of beautiful female assassins . . . but even The Shadow is unprepared for the secret of Number One's true identity. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Rod Whigham and Gerry Fernandez. Cover by Eduardo Barreto. (Deluxe Format) \$1.75

SPELLJAMMER™ #8
Concluding the "Wildfyre" storyline: Meredith unleashes a heretofore unseen level of mystical power which unsettles her *Spelljammer* comrades. Written by Barbara Kesel, with art by new regular penciller Joe Quesada, and Dan Panosian. Cover by Joe Quesada and Joe Rubinstein. (New Format) \$1.75

STAR TREK® #18
On an espionage mission into the heart of the aliens' base, the crew of the Enterprise must find a way to neutralize the Klingons before they spring a violent plan of their own. Written by Howard Weinstein, with art by Gordon Purcell and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. (New Format) \$1.50

STAR TREK®: THE NEXT GENERATION #18
A traveler from the future appears aboard the Enterprise to try to prevent a cataclysmic mistake from happening . . . a mistake innocently caused by Wesley Crusher. Written by David Stern and Mike O'Brien, with art by Mike Manley and Robert Campanella. Cover by Jerome Moore. (New Format) \$1.50

STARMAN #33
Part 4 of the 4-part "*Seduction of Starman*." Starman learns the truth about the Hart Trust . . . and the decision that grows out of that discovery could well change the way the world views its superheroes. Written by Len Strazewski, with art

by Dave Hoover and Scott Hanna. Cover by Hoover. \$1.00

SUICIDE SQUAD #51
A homicidal maniac has stolen Deadshot's costume and is murdering innocent people indiscriminately. Can Deadshot bring himself to kill the impostor—without killing himself? Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Luke McDonnell and Geof Isherwood. Cover by Isherwood and Karl Kesel. \$1.00.

SUPERMAN #54
Part 3 of the 7-part "*Time and Time Again*" (continued from ACTION COMICS #663): Trapped in the Warsaw Ghetto of the 1940s, Superman must get to a nuclear bomb test site if he hopes to return to the present. Continued in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #477. Written and pencilled by Jerry Ordway and inked by Dennis Janke. Plus, beginning this issue, the Newsboy Legion stars in a back-up feature that pits them against the D.N. Alien in the heart of The Project, written and drawn by Karl Kesel. Cover by Ordway. \$1.00

SUPERMAN Poster
SUPERMAN artist Jerry Ordway paints a nostalgic portrait of the Man of Steel in the war-torn 1940s with this special 22" x 28" fully-painted poster, a tie-in with the current seven-part "*Time and Time Again*" storyline now running in all the SUPERMAN titles. \$5.95

SUPERMAN SPECIAL #1
The good news is that Lex Luthor, in trying to synthesize Kryptonite, inadvertently neutralizes all Kryptonite's deadly radioactive properties. The bad news is that this results in the creation of a new menace that proves deadly to Superman. This 64-page special is written and illustrated by Walter Simonson. (Note that this story takes place before SUPERMAN #51, so Lex Luthor is still alive.) Cover by Simonson. \$2.00

SWAMP THING #106
Part 3 of the 6-part "*The Quest for the Elementals*": While tracking a missing elemental to the Himalayas, Swamp Thing learns the truth about the Yeti Legend as Matango's emergence wreaks chaos around the world. Written by Doug Wheeler, with art by Mike Hoffman. Painted cover by Ian Miller. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.50

TEMPUS FUGITIVE #3
(of a 4-book miniseries)
Ray 27 doubts that the quest to save his own future time by altering the past might fail as he finds himself in the middle of the aerial dogfights of World War I. Story and magnificent airbrush art and cover by Ken Steacy. (Prestige Format) \$5.95

WHO'S WHO #8
(of a 16-issue maxiseries)
Forty-eight pages with 24 entries including Lobo as the cover-featured character, by Simon Bisley, Punch and Jewelee by Karl Kesel, Raven by Tom Grummett, John Stewart by Mark Bright, Phantom Stranger by Keiron Dwyer, The Spectre by Matt Wagner, Darkseid's Elite by John Byrne, Perry White by Dan Jurgens and Dennis Janke, Kent Shakespeare by Chris Sprouse and Al Gordon, and a host of other DC super-stars. (Deluxe Loose-leaf Format.) \$3.95

WHO'S WHO BINDER #2
It's the second loose-leaf binder for saving and organizing the pages of your ever-growing collection of WHO'S WHO entries. This binder sports all-new art by Brian Bolland featuring Superman, Batman, Flash, the new Robin, Guy Gardner, Joker, Catwoman, Brainiac, Sinestro, and Gorilla Grodd. \$8.00



Front Cover
WHO'S WHO BINDER #2

WONDER WOMAN #53
In search of the war god Ares, Wonder Woman encounters instead the harbinger of death, Pariah. Meanwhile, Amazons are the chief suspects in a series of museum robberies. Written by George Pérez, with art by Linda Thompson and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Pérez. \$1.50

WORLD WITHOUT END #4
(of a 6-book miniseries)
With Brother Bones in close pursuit, Rumour seeks refuge in the lost, female-dominated society of the Scarlots. Written by Jamie Delano, with painted art and painted cover by John Higgins. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$2.50

people at WORK

JIM APARO

This month DC celebrates the 600th consecutive appearance of Batman in DETECTIVE COMICS with a re-presentation of the very first Batman story and three contemporary retellings of that classic tale. Of course, when we think of the Golden Age Batman, the first name that springs to mind is Dark Knight creator Bob Kane. But when it comes to the modern-day Caped Crusader, fans (not to mention his peers) have to point to artist Jim Aparo and his more than 20-year association with Batman.

Jim was born in New Britain, Connecticut in August of 1932 where he developed an early interest in comic books and newspaper strips. "I always loved comics growing up, during the war years. I read all the big titles of the time. Superman and Batman, who was one of my favorites, and C.C. Beck's Captain Marvel, Captain Marvel Jr. by Mac Raboy . . . that was outstanding artwork for its time and still holds up today. But Batman was one of my favorite heroes. Everybody loved Batman. We grew up with that Dick Sprang artwork.

"So I grew up with all that stuff. I cut my eyeteeth on it, along with the newspaper comic strips. *Flash Gordon*, that was a big influence on me. *Terry and the Pirates* by Milton Caniff was another one."

Aside from stimulating his interest in comics, these strips and their creators also served as a training ground for the budding young artist. "I'm a more or less self-taught artist," Jim says. "I completed all my elementary schooling, junior high and high school, where I took all the art courses that were available. Fine arts, interior design, anything they had, but there were never any comics or cartoon courses. They weren't recognized at the time, so it was mostly straight stuff, but that gives you a good background in the basics.

"After graduating from high school I also took a course at the Hartford Art School, a life drawing class. I did pretty well in it, and after about six months the instructor took a look at what I was doing and said that I pretty much had it down and there wasn't much more they could offer me. So I just kept drawing on my own, studying all the comics, all the styles, learning as I went.

"My dad always wanted me to be a teacher but I nixed that idea. I was still interested in art. After high school, I did a lot of manual labor, in stores, in factories. I worked on machines, I did all kinds of things. But after I clipped a little piece of finger off in a machine, I thought 'Oh-oh, this is not for me anymore!' On my right hand yet. Today it doesn't bother me, but I thought then if I stayed there, a career in art was going to be all over.

"So I got out of that and went to work in an art supply store, and one of the fellows that worked there knew someone who had a small, one-man art service in the next town over. I went over and showed him some of the samples I'd worked up . . . I was always tooling around, drawing comic pages. I'd make up my own stories and draw a few pages of an idea and then go on to something else. I showed him all that



Jim Aparo and "friends" —
Batman, Spectre and Phantom Stranger!

and he hired me.

"One of his accounts was the telephone company, so I did a lot of line drawings for ads in the Yellow Pages. I did something called isometric drawing, which is an exploded view of a machine or product showing how all its parts fit together. We did it with jet engines for GE, all kinds of stuff."

Jim was married in 1957, right around the time business started slowing down at the agency, so he moved on to a larger agency in West Hartford, but he never gave up on comics. "We had an account man working with us at this particular agency who had a kids' television show on Channel 30 in New Britain, where I used to live, and he and I teamed up on a newspaper strip called *Stern Wheeler*." Jim and his partner allowed *The Hartford Times* to run the strip for free for several months in the hope that it would be picked up by a syndicate, a hope that never materialized.

"I was still working at the agency while the strip was running, drawing it at night, and I was still submitting samples to the comic book companies all over New York. I used to go down there, pound the beat, knock on all the doors, but in those days you couldn't get in for love or money. Closed shop. But there was this little outfit called Charlton Comics in Derby, Connecticut, run by a guy named Dick Giordano. I was on vacation from the ad agency, so I hopped in my car with my samples and went down there. Dick looked my stuff over, said 'Fine,' and gave me a story to draw.

"The first feature I did was 'Bikini Luv' for *Go-Go* a kind of teenage rock-and-roll comic. From there I did romance stories, then mystery/ghost books, then western stories. I was still working days at the ad agency, but after a while Dick asked me to draw full-time for Charlton. I said I would, if he could guarantee me enough work . . . I had a few little kids running around at home who had to be fed. He told me it was no problem, so I left the agency. That was around 1967.

"I stayed with Charlton a couple of years, doing *Wander*, which was written by a guy named Sergius O'Shaunessy, a.k.a. Denny O'Neil, 'Nightshade', a back-up in *Captain Atom* that died right away, and other features. Then Dick got an offer to go to DC and asked if I was interested in coming along. Was I interested?" Jim laughed. He had only been trying to break in at DC for over a decade.

"My first assignment at DC was *Aqua-*

man, beginning with #40, after Nick Cardy, who was a very, very tough act to follow. He really turned on the steam those last few issues. I looked at that stuff and said, 'Oh, my lord!'

"And I was still working for Charlton, drawing *The Phantom*. But that and *Aquaman* were both bi-monthly, so it was great. It really made for a nice artistic change of pace and kept me from getting bored.

"Then Joe Orlando assigned me to THE PHANTOM STRANGER, which I picked up with #7, so I swung over to DC fulltime. *Phantom Stranger* was a great challenge, a great character and an education in itself. The research end of it was unbelievable because we went all over the world in that strip. Israel, South America . . . I was always at the library. The best resource I found was the children's library because they had so many picture books."

Aside from the challenge, *Phantom Stranger* also led to Jim's assignment as regular artist on THE BRAVE & THE BOLD. "They wanted to team Batman with Phantom Stranger and the editor, Murray Boltinoff, said 'What better guy to draw this than the artist on the *Stranger*?' I'd never drawn Batman up till then, so this was a big thing for me.

"I did that one issue and then I went back to *Aquaman* and *Phantom Stranger*, and a few issues later, after *Aquaman* was cancelled, I was assigned permanently to BRAVE & BOLD and a long association with that book followed . . . I don't know how long I was on it." Between BRAVE & BOLD #98 and #200, the final issue, Jim drew all but about 20 issues, an impressive record by anybody's standards.

During that time, Jim also drew the groundbreaking run of "The Spectre" in ADVENTURE COMICS #431-440. "The Spectre was a great series, written by Michael Fleisher," Jim remembers fondly. "They were reminiscent of the EC days to me, which was only natural, I guess, since they were edited by Joe Orlando, who had been an artist at EC. The stories were pretty violent for the time, although they look pretty tame by today's standards. At first, everything was fine, everybody was gung-ho over it, but then the negative mail started coming in, objecting to the violence. At the time, though, I remember telling somebody in an interview that it wasn't any more violent than the Vietnam war, which we'd just spent years watching every night on television. That was real, 'Spectre' was just a fantasy."

After BRAVE & BOLD was cancelled, Jim moved on to yet another Batman title, BATMAN AND THE OUTSIDERS, co-created with writer Mike Barr. "OUTSIDERS lasted until 1987 and that's when I came down to the office and was offered BATMAN. That was about three years before the anniversary, which was the furthest thing from my mind. You just buckle down and get to work, anniversary or not. But we all know what happened after that . . . the anniversary came, the movie hit, everybody went bananas and jumped on the Batman bandwagon."

Recently the creative teams were switched, placing Jim on DETECTIVE COMICS, but he's not bothered in the least by the change of title. "I'm still doing Batman and plan to stay with him. I guess I know him pretty well by now. It's like living with a big brother."

kideternity

The origin of Kid Eternity is told in the 1940s HIT COMICS #25.

